

(d) if so, the details and measures proposed to be taken to set up more hospitals and improve healthcare delivery system in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. Out of a total 7029 Government Hospitals, 3969 hospitals are located in rural areas.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Leprosy patients in the country

331. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of leprosy patients in the country till July, 2006 is reported to be 99.255;

(b) whether Delhi alone has a high rate of leprosy with an average of 2.04 per every 10,000 people as against national average of 1.9;

(c) whether WHO has reportedly expressed its concern over increase of 1,134 cases between March and July in Delhi this year along with Uttar Pradesh (23,729) followed by Bihar (13,138) and West Bengal (1,064); and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The total number of leprosy cases on record in India were 99,255 as on 31st July, 2006.

(b) Delhi has a high prevalence rate of leprosy as compared to the National Level. With 3383 leprosy cases on record, the prevalence rate of Delhi was 2.04 cases per 10,000 population as on 31st July, 2006 as against the National prevalence rate of 0.88 cases per 10,000 population. However, it is stated that the prevalence rate of leprosy in Delhi has come down to 1.92 per 10,000 in the month of September, 2006.

(c) and (d) WHO has not expressed its concern over the increase of Leprosy cases in Delhi, Uttar pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. In fact the

Leprosy cases in these four States/UTs are showing a consistent decline. During the period 31st March, 2006 to 31st July, 2006 the new cases detected were 1134 in Delhi, 12990 in Uttar Pradesh, 5094 in West Bengal and 7912 in State of Bihar. The cases on record as on 31st July, 2006 were 3383 in Delhi, 23729 in Uttar Pradesh, 10641 in West Bengal and 13138 in Bihar.

On comparing this data with corresponding period in 2005, there is a reduction in newly detected leprosy cases as well as in cases which are on record as on 31st July as shown in the table below:

State	New cases detected from 31st March to 31st July, 05	New cases detected from 31st March to 31st July, 06	Cases on record as on 31st July, 05	Cases on record as 31st July, 06
Delhi	1344	1134	4469	3383
U.P.	14004	12990	30386	23729
Bihar	10371	7912	17332	13138
W.B.	5884	5094	16161	10641

However, under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) efforts are being continued for further reducing the burden of leprosy through effective implementation of its activities. To increase the supervision and monitoring component of the programme, all the States were instructed to observe the month of September and October, 2006 as Supervision and Monitoring month.

Spurious blood testing kits

332. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are seized of the news reports highlighting circulation of contaminated blood, especially by the blood banks of West Bengal Government Health Service and about use of blood testing kits of spurious quality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the victim recipients of contaminated blood transfusions related to the defective test kits;